

Application No.: 10/638,392Docket No.: 4425-311REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested for the following reasons:

The present remarks are in response to the Office Action mailed April 11, 2005, in which Claims 1 through 17 were rejected.

No claims are amended. No Claims are canceled and no claims are added. Accordingly, Claims 1-17 remain pending.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in light of the above amendments and the following remarks.

CLAIM REJECTION-35 U.S.C. SECTION 102 (e)

With respect to Page 2 through 4 of the Office Action, the Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Hofmeister et al (U.S. Patent No. 20040151562A1).

According to Homeister et al, which discloses a substrate processing apparatus, the apparatus includes a transport chamber, at least one substrate holding module for holding a substrate, a transport vehicle, and another module (see page 1, section [0006]). Homeister et al also teaches in FIG. 7, a transport apparatus, similar to apparatus 122A, (see also FIG. 3) in the chamber 18 capable of transiting between sections 18P1, 18P2, 18P3 of the chamber with different environments therein. Hence, as can be realized from FIG. 7, the transport apparatus 122A may with one pick move a semiconductor workpiece from the tool in one process or bay 18A of the processing facility to another tool with a different environment in a different process or bay 18B of the process facility. ( see page 5 section [0053]). As the abovementioned,

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Homeister et al merely teaches the purpose of process 18A and 18B such as "more or less processes 18A and 18B may be provided that are different processes, for example etch, CMP, copper deposition" (see page 5, section [0056]), and the connection relationship among 18A, 18B and tool 300 "where the processing apparatus 18A and 18B in combination with tool 300 being a stocker" (see page 5, section [0055]). However, in the present invention discloses a method, system, and computer-readable medium, which processes the job item according to the "relationship between the token and robot". For example, "Referring to FIG. 5A, a robot ...The token runs to the car 112 ...The robot directly inputs the ..." (see page 11 line 23 to page 12 line 20). Therefore, Homeister et al does not disclose "indicating a token to a first port, wherein said token pre-sets a first job item of said first port to be processed" as in claim 1 and 5. And Homeister et al does not disclose "a token cycling among said plurality of ports to indicate one of said plurality of ports as a predetermined priority port" as in claim 9.

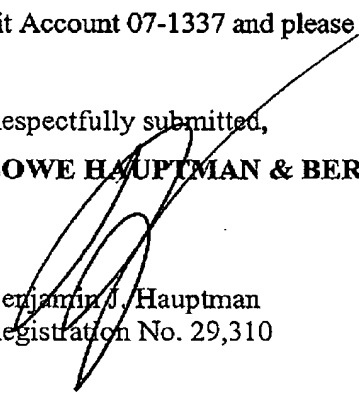
Besides, Homeister et al teaches "In the embodiment shown in FIG. 7, processes 18A and 18B may be the same process, for example etch, where the processing apparatus 18A and 18B in combination with tool 300 being a stocker are capable of processing equal amounts of substrates" (see page 5 section [0055]). And the advantage of the connection among 18A, 18B and tool 300 is to "share a common controller environment (e.g. inert atmosphere, or vacuum)" (see page 6, section [0056]). However, Homeister is not directed to the relationship and substitution between 18A and 18B, and furthermore, there is no "token" existed between 18A and 18B. To the contrary, Homeister does not disclose "processing a second job item with said robot while said second job item locates in a different section to said first job item but in a same section to said robot and of waiting for being processed to a same section to said first job item" as in claim 1 and 5. Homeister also does not disclose "while said robot locates in a different section to a corresponding priority job item of said predetermined priority port, said robot processes a corresponding job item of a port being in a same section to said robot before processing said corresponding priority job item of said predetermined priority port" as in claim 9. Therefore, according to the above reason, Applicant believes that Homeister et al cannot anticipate the present invention. Thus, the rejection for the claims 1-17 also can be traversed.

**Application No.: 10/638,392****Docket No.: 4425-311****Conclusion**

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending Claims 1 through 17 as currently presented are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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